

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 HA-05 SIG-03 AF-10 ARA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 DODE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 H-01 L-03
/129 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DPSULLIVAN:LGR
APPROVED BY P - DAVID D. NEWSOM
IO - CWMAYNES
HA - LMORIN
EA - RBOAKLEY

-----049525 072331Z /66

R 071631Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PORG, ID

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN EAST TIMOR

REF: JAKARTA 8977 AND OTHERS.

1. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS POSTS AND OTHER SOURCES
INDICATE THAT THE FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR LESTE
INDEPENDENTE (FRETILIN) AND ITS SUPPORTERS HAVE BEGUN A
DIPLOMATIC AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE AS MANY
GOVERNMENTS AND AS MUCH WORLD OPINION AS POSSIBLE IN
FRETILIN'S FAVOR IN PREPARATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE
EAST TIMOR AGENDA ITEM AT THE FORTHCOMING UNGA. MAIN
ELEMENTS OF NEW CAMPAIGN ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT US PILOTS
HAVE CONDUCTED GROUND SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN EAST TIMOR IN
SUPPORT OF INDONESIAN FORCES AND THAT AMERICAN MILITARY
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ADVISORS ARE OPERATING ALONGSIDE INDONESIAN TROOPS IN THE
TERRITORY.

2. ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY CATEGORICALLY DENY ALLEGATIONS OF
US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN EAST TIMOR, EITHER AT POST'S
INITIATIVE WHERE THIS APPEARS LOCALLY TO BE APPROPRIATE
OR IN RESPONSE INQUIRIES FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS OR PRIVATE

INDIVIDUALS. USG HAS NO PERSONNEL, EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, STATIONED IN OR CLOSE TO EAST TIMOR AND HAS

PLAYED NO ADVISORY ROLE IN INDONESIAN OPERATIONS IN EAST TIMOR. FRETILIN ALLEGATIONS ARE BASELESS AND COMPLETELY FICTITIOUS.

3. FOR POSTS INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS USG EVALUATION OF SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR:

A. USG INFORMATION ON SITUATION IN REMOTE TERRITORY IS LIMITED, BUT TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE PRESENT SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT FRETILIN HAS AT MOST A FEW THOUSAND ARMED CADRE IN EAST TIMOR. SEVERAL THOUSAND MORE TIMORESE APPEAR TO BE EITHER WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY PRESENTLY IN FRETILIN CONTROLLED AREAS. SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT LAST AUGUST OF GOI AMNESTY FOR FRETILIN SUPPORTERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ABOUT 60,000 TIMORESE HAVE MOVED FROM AREAS UNDER FRETILIN CONTROL OR SUBJECT TO FRETILIN PRESSURE TO AREAS SECURED BY THE GOVERNMENT. FRETILIN'S STRENGTH AND POPULAR SUPPORT ARE CLEARLY DECREASING AND FRETILIN FORCES DO NOT APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE ANY REAL THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

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(2) VISITORS TO EAST TIMOR OVER LAST FEW MONTHS INCLUDE NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA, APOSTOLIC PRO-NUNCIO AND US EMBASSY OFFICER AND DEFENSE ATTACHE. FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION, ALL THESE VISITORS CONFIRMED INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO CONTROL MAIN AREAS OF EAST TIMOR, FACT THAT GOI IS ACTIVELY WORKING FOR BETTERMENT OF LOCAL POPULATION, AND THAT LOCAL EAST TIMORESE HOLD MOST OF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

(3) THERE ARE SEVERAL RELIABLE INDICATIONS THAT THE GOI PLANS TO OPEN UP EAST TIMOR TO MORE REGULAR VISITS BY OUTSIDERS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. REGULAR AIR SERVICE BY GARUDA INDONESIAN AIRWAYS FROM JAKARTA TO DILI IS TO BEGIN AFTER PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE PROVINCE IN JULY. BAUCAU AIRPORT WILL REPORTEDLY BE OPENED AT THAT TIME FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.

B. FRETILIN CLAIMS THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS ARE OR HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN EAST TIMOR AND THAT AMERICAN PILOTS ARE OR HAVE BEEN FLYING COMBAT OR SUPPORT MISSIONS IN THE TERRITORY ARE TOTALLY BASELESS. THERE ARE NO RPT NO US ADVISORS OF ANY KIND IN EAST TIMOR. SIMILARLY,

FRETILIN CLAIM THAT INSURGENCY HAS SPREAD TO WEST TIMOR
IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

4. USG HAS STATED ITS BELIEF THAT INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE

OF EAST TIMOR WOULD BEST BE SERVED AT PRESENT TIME BY
BENDING EFFORTS OF THE UN AND MEMBER NATIONS TOWARD HELPING
WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY AND
WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PRESS THE GOI TO GRANT ACCESS TO EAST
TIMOR FOR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMANITARIAN ORGANI-
ZATIONS. USG DOES NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO SUPPORT
A PROPOSED UNGA DRAFT RESOLUTION NOW BEING CIRCULATED BY
FRETILIN AND ITS SUPPORTERS.

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5. FOR LISBON, USUN, AND JAKARTA: SEPTELS FOLLOW RE
SUBJECTS RAISED IN LISBON 4404 AND USUN 02625 (NOTAL). VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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